Listing of Claims

1. (Previously Presented) A system for controlling access to a printing environment comprising:

a directory server coupled to a third network the directory server comprising:

a memory; and

a message processor adapted to register identification information in a directory table in the memory

at least one printing device coupled to a first network, wherein the first network is configured inside at least one firewall, and wherein the directory server is configured outside the at least one firewall;

a second network coupled to the first network and the third network;

a means for registering identification information for the at least one printing device on the directory server, wherein the identification information at least partially comprises availability information and configuration information;

at least one client device coupled to the first network;

a means for sending a request to the directory server from the at least one client device comprising an availability inquiry about the availability of an at least one printing device;

a means for processing the request and issuing a reply message to the at least one client device, wherein the reply message comprises all the configuration information necessary for the client device to configure the at least one printer to print files from the at least one client device; and

a means for configuring the at least one printer to print at least one file from the at least one client device.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one printing device is selected from among an inkjet printer, a laser printer, a wide format printer, and a dot matrix printer.

4. (Cancelled).

5. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the network device further comprises a network connection for coupling to the first network.

6. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the first network comprises a local area network.

7. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the first network comprises a plurality of interconnected networks.

8. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the second network comprises any of a wide area network, global network, public network, or the Internet.

9-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the identification information comprises an address.

12. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the identification information comprises an address of the network device on the first network.

13.　(Previously Presented)　The system of claim 1, wherein the first network is coupled to a second network, and the identification information comprises an address of the first network on the second network.

14-24. (Cancelled).